

What is claimed is:-

1. An acceptor for money items or the like comprising:
sensing means for sensing parameters of an item submitted to the acceptor,
processing means for determining the acceptability of an item submitted to
the acceptor in the basis of the parameters thereof sensed by the sensing means, and
communication means,
wherein the processing means is configured to respond to a condition
indicative of a fraud attempt by sending an alarm signal using said communication
means and to respond to such an alarm signal, received by said communication
means, to modify its acceptance criteria.
2. An acceptor according to claim 1, wherein said condition relates to a sensed
parameter value.
3. An acceptor according to claim 2, wherein said condition comprises a sensed
parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.
4. An acceptor according to claim 1, wherein said modification comprises
reducing an acceptance range for a sensed money item parameter.
5. An acceptor according to claim 4, wherein said condition relates to a sensed
parameter value.
6. An acceptor according to claim 5, wherein said condition comprises a sensed
parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.
7. An acceptor according to claim 1, wherein the communication means
comprises data network communication means.
8. An acceptor for money items or the like comprising:
sensing means for sensing parameters of an item submitted to the acceptor,

processing means for determining the acceptability of an item submitted to the acceptor in the basis of the parameters thereof sensed by the sensing means, and data network communication means,

wherein the processing means is configured to respond to a condition 5 indicative of a fraud attempt by sending an alarm signal using said communication means and to respond to such an alarm signal, received by said communication means, to modify its acceptance criteria.

9. An acceptor according to claim 8, wherein said condition relates to a sensed 10 parameter value.

10. An acceptor according to claim 9, wherein said condition comprises a sensed parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.

15 11. An acceptor according to claim 8, wherein said modification comprises reducing an acceptance range for a sensed money item parameter.

12. An acceptor according to claim 11, wherein said condition relates to a sensed parameter value.

20 13. An acceptor according to claim 12, wherein said condition comprises a sensed parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.

14. A coin- or banknote-operated machine including an acceptor for money 25 items or the like, the acceptor comprising:

sensing means for sensing parameters of an item submitted to the acceptor, processing means for determining the acceptability of an item submitted to the acceptor in the basis of the parameters thereof sensed by the sensing means, and communication means,

30 wherein the processing means is configured to respond to a condition indicative of a fraud attempt by sending an alarm signal using said communication means and to respond to such an alarm signal, received by said communication means, to modify its acceptance criteria.

15. A machine according to claim 14, wherein said condition relates to a sensed parameter value.
- 5 16. A machine according to claim 15, wherein said condition comprises a sensed parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.
17. A machine according to claim 14, wherein said modification comprises reducing an acceptance range for a sensed money item parameter.
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18. A machine according to claim 17, wherein said condition relates to a sensed parameter value.
19. A machine according to claim 18, wherein said condition comprises a sensed parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.
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20. A machine according to claim 14, wherein the communication means comprises data network communication means.
- 20 21. A coin- or banknote-operated machine including an acceptor for money items or the like, the acceptor comprising:
sensing means for sensing parameters of an item submitted to the acceptor,
processing means for determining the acceptability of an item submitted to the acceptor in the basis of the parameters thereof sensed by the sensing means, and
25 data network communication means,
wherein the processing means is configured to respond to a condition indicative of a fraud attempt by sending an alarm signal using said communication means and to respond to such an alarm signal, received by said communication means, to modify its acceptance criteria.
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22. A machine according to claim 21, wherein said condition relates to a sensed parameter value.

23. A machine according to claim 22, wherein said condition comprises a sensed parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.
24. A machine according to claim 21, wherein said modification comprises
5 reducing an acceptance range for a sensed money item parameter.
25. A machine according to claim 24, wherein said condition relates to a sensed parameter value.
- 10 26. A machine according to claim 25, wherein said condition comprises a sensed parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.
- 15 27. A system comprising a plurality of coin- or banknote-operated machines, each including an acceptor and interconnected in a data network, said acceptors each comprising:
sensing means for sensing parameters of an item submitted to the acceptor,
processing means for determining the acceptability of an item submitted to the acceptor in the basis of the parameters thereof sensed by the sensing means, and
data network communication means for communication via said data
20 network,
wherein said processing means is configured to respond to a condition indicative of a fraud attempt by sending an alarm signal using said communication means and to respond to such an alarm signal, received by said communication means, to modify its acceptance criteria..
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28. A system according to claim 27, wherein said condition relates to a sensed parameter value.
29. A system according to claim 28, wherein said condition comprises a sensed parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.
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30. A system according to claim 27, wherein said modification comprises reducing an acceptance range for a sensed money item parameter.

31. A system according to claim 30, wherein said condition relates to a sensed parameter value.
32. A system according to claim 31, wherein said condition comprises a sensed parameter falling within a marginal region of an acceptance range therefor.